

February 28, 2022

Re: HB5363

To the Commerce Committee,

Please vote NO on HB5263, a bill to allow the processing of thousands of rabbits for food consumption.

It is deeply disturbing that CT would be considering this proposal.

1. Rabbits are the third most common household pets after dogs and cats.
2. Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits. They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.
3. Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.
4. The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.
5. While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative.

I like to think that my home state of Connecticut is a progressive place, but this proposal is not only inhumane, but backwards and barbaric.

Again, please vote NO.

As Mohandas K Gandhi said, **“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”** I would argue that this moral standard also applies to States, municipalities, and societal organizations, and should be a guiding principle in all.

Respectfully Submitted,

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